

# Women's Representation in Alabama

Parity Ranking: 36<sup>th</sup> of 50

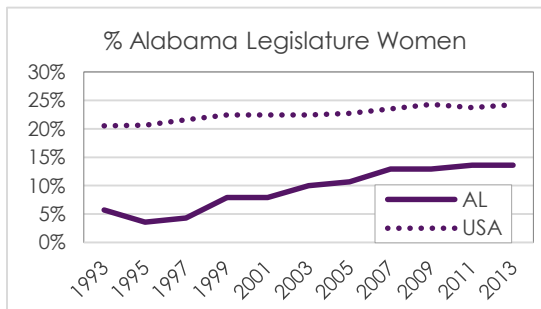
*Score of 12:* Four points for lieutenant governor, auditor, and president of the public service commission. 4 points for the percentage of U.S. House members who are women and 4 for the percentage of state legislators who are women.

## Quick Fact

Representatives Terri Sewell (D) and Martha Roby (R) were the first women elected to Congress from Alabama through regular elections. Both women were initially elected in 2010 and are still in office.

## Trending

From 1994 to 2002, Alabama ranked last in the nation for its percentage of state legislators who were women. Today it ranks 47<sup>th</sup>, above Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Louisiana.



Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University.

## Elections to Watch

No U.S. House district is competitive in the general election, but women could gain seats through primary challenges or open seat races. Both Martha Roby (R) and Terri Sewell (D) will retain their seats unless they are defeated in their primaries.

Four Alabama women won statewide in 2010, but one, the Secretary of State, has resigned and the office of state auditor will be open in 2014. Men are favored in the gubernatorial election, although the Democrats may nominate former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Sue Bell.

## Levels of Government

### Statewide Executives

Female governors: Lurleen Wallace (1967-1968) served after her husband, George Wallace, was term-limited out of office. She died a year after her election.

Current female statewide elected executives: 3 of 8 (lieutenant governor, public service commissioner, and state auditor). Secretary of State Beth Chapman resigned in August.

Number of women to have held statewide elected executive office in Alabama: 18

### Congress

U.S. Senate: 0 of 2 seats are held by women

U.S. House: 2 of 7 seats are held by women

In its history, Alabama has elected three women to the U.S. House and none to the U.S. Senate, although Maryon Pittman Allen (1978) was appointed to the Senate after the death of her husband, and Dixie Bibb Graves (1937-38) was appointed to fill a Senate vacancy caused by a resignation.

### State Legislature

Percentage women: 13.6%

Rankings: 47<sup>th</sup> of 50

Senate: 5 of 35 (14.3%) are women

House: 14 of 105 (13.3%) are women

Method of election: single-member districts

### Local

None of Alabama's five largest cities with elected mayors has a woman mayor.

## Words of Wisdom

"Women understand money... Suddenly we have a lot more money in Alabama with a woman treasurer!" – Lucy Baxley, former state treasurer of Alabama